

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 678
By Dunn

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Mike Blankenship on his selection as the National Association of Agriculture Educators' Region V Agriculture Education Teacher of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Mike Blankenship is one such estimable educator, who has distinguished himself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Blankenship, who teaches at Halls High School in Knox County, has recently been selected as the National Association of Agriculture Educators' Region V Agriculture Education Teacher of the Year, an honor most befitting his outstanding tenure as a teacher as it recognizes the positive influence he has had on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, he contributes his interest in agriculture to a high school partnership with his father in which he planted 1,000 pink dogwood trees in his Knoxville backyard, a project which allowed him to earn enough money to attend the University of Knoxville, from which he received his Bachelor of Science degree; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Blankenship has served with acumen and alacrity as a high school level Agriculture Education teacher within the Knox County school district for twenty-eight exemplary years; and

WHEREAS, a firm believer that education is best done through experience, Mr. Blankenship helps his students to take a hands-on approach; he is currently supervising an ambitious project to construct an outdoor classroom on land recently donated to Halls High School's campus; and

WHEREAS, as part of a larger picture to help conserve the environment and reduce flooding along Beaver Creek, Mr. Blankenship and his agriculture students are constructing a walking area, a wildflower garden, and an environmentally-friendly rain garden with water-loving plants designed to absorb run-off water from the Beaver Creek Watershed; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Blankenship's support of the outdoor classroom will not only benefit the horticulture classes but also the students in the high school's Math, English, Science, and Drama classes; and

WHEREAS, an active and important part of his community and his profession, Mr. Blankenship is a Knox County Environmental Assessment member who describes his ultimate education experience as, "Seeing the light bulb turn on for students, showing me that they understand a learning concept."; and

WHEREAS, Mike Blankenship is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate his students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mike Blankenship truly serves as an inspiration to his colleagues and students alike, and his friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know him; and

WHEREAS, Mike Blankenship truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Mike Blankenship of Halls High School on being chosen as National Association of Agriculture Educators' Region V Agriculture Education Teacher of the Year, commend his exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, salute his professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.